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Remarks

This is filed in response to the Office Action mailed April 7, 2006 relating to the above-identified patent application.

Applicants acknowledge that claim 7 is absent, and respectfully request that the proper numbering sequence of the claims to be addressed upon allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 8-10, 12, 14-16, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 (e) as anticipated by Luther et al. US 2003/0153873 (hereinafter, "Luther"). Further, claims 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Luther and ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Luther in view of Koehn U.S. Patent No. 3,030,953 (hereinafter, "Koehn").

Claims 3 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 (a) as unpatentable over Luther in view of Leschinsky et al. U. S. Patent No. 6,179,825 (hereinafter, "Leschinsky").

Finally, claims 4 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Luther in view of Raulerson U.S. Patent No. 5,599,311 (hereinafter "Raulerson").

Applicants amended claims 1,8 and 14 to recite an over-the-needle or intravenous catheter assembly including a catheter land having "... a predetermined length and a predetermined cross section *such that a needle tip is completely enveloped within the catheter tip*". Support in the specification for the amended claims is found on page 13, lines 5-10.

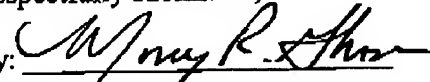
Significantly, the Luther, Koehn, Leschinsky or Raulerson references do not individually, or in combination, teach or suggest a catheter land having "a predetermined length and a predetermined cross section such that a needle tip is completely enveloped within the catheter tip".

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully suggest that amended claims 1, 8, 14 and all claims depending therefrom are in a form of allowance. Notification to that effect is requested. If prosecution of this application would be furthered by a telephone

interview, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned. Authorization to charge any required fees relating to this response to Deposit Account No. 02-1666 is hereby granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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